



Catholic Charities of Los Angeles, Inc.

The Sage

www.CatholicCharitiesLA.org • ISSN 1551-9112

Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence, Shelter for Victim of Domestic Violence

Cindy and her four children entered San Pedro Region’s Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence (EASR), fleeing from a domestic violence relationship that left the family homeless. Cindy had just given birth to her fourth child when she decided to make a change for the safety of her children.



San Pedro Region’s Elizabeth Ann Seton Residence (EASR) providing a safe place and support.

EASR staff immediately provided Cindy with a safe place to stay, housing referrals, counseling services and notebooks, so her school-age children could attend school online, due to the coronavirus pandemic. Cindy said she and her children finally felt safe.

The family quickly obtained permanent housing with the assistance of the EASR onsite case manager. They experienced a range of emotions, from being excited at finally finding their own place to being sad at “having to leave a safe place (EASR) which we had grown to love in such a short time.”

The EASR case manager assured the family that Catholic Charities of Los Angeles would continue to provide them with ongoing support while they were safe in their very own home.

Cindy had just one request before leaving EASR: could the family take the blankets to which she and her children had become attached during their shelter stay? The family was granted their request and EASR staff were able to take a photo of the family with those blankets. ❀



A mother and her child show special handmade toys from the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers at the San Fernando Region’s Guadalupe Community Center Christmas party.



Children who participate in the Adeste childcare program at El Santo Niño Community Center were happy to receive handmade Christmas gifts from the San Fernando Valley Woodworkers.

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1919 Launching our Second Century of Service 2021

Message from the Executive Director, Rev. Monsignor Gregory A. Cox

Walt Disney became famous for giving the world Mickey Mouse and Disneyland. Not many know of his brother Roy. Yet, the two brothers worked together closely. They realized early that Walt was an artist and Roy was a businessperson. They made an agreement. Roy worked behind the scenes taking care of all business details, so that his brother, Walt, would be free to create and produce. As Roy expressed it: “my job is to help Walt do the things he wants to do. I deal with the banks and give Walt a free hand.”

Organizations are successful when administration is supportive of those in the field and those in the field are supportive of those in administration. Both strive to achieve the mission of the agency. Each group has an essential role in the success of their service to the community.

Catholic Charities of Los Angeles’ mission is to “manifest Christ’s spirit through collaboration with diverse communities by providing services to the poor and vulnerable, by promoting human dignity and by advocating for social justice.” Our staff is a combination of people with social service and business skills, each one complimenting the other in order that Catholic Charities might better serve people suffering from experiences like mental health disorders, poverty, COVID-19 and natural disasters.

St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:4, “There are different gifts but the same Spirit.” During these challenging times of the pandemic, it is essential that Catholic Charities utilize the different gifts of our staff and volunteers to fulfill our mission of serving those who are homeless, hungry and unemployed. Because of the cooperation of our dedicated staff, we are able to bring hope and opportunity to those we serve. ❖

Save this Date!

Monday, June 21, 2021, 24th Annual Catholic Charities’
Golf Tournament, Annandale Golf Club

Guadalupe Center’s Teachers Build Pathways to College Success

Guadalupe Center has been a beacon of hope for the West San Fernando Valley by improving access to supplemental nutrition at the Loaves & Fishes’ food pantry and providing free after-school tutoring for low-income families in need of a helping-hand.

The dedicated Teachers and After-School Volunteer Tutors at the Guadalupe Learning Center & Digital Literacy Computer Lab pour their “hearts, souls and minds” into every child who comes through the doors, at every stage of their learning. After-School and during Summer Camp, the Tutors nurture youth from all backgrounds and provide a safe-haven, especially for children facing challenging home lives. They provide English/Spanish language assistance and have walked “hand-in-hand” with hundreds of youngsters, helping them on their path to graduation and beyond.

Recently, Teacher Amanda Cortez received a message from



A Learning Center Tutor assists a student at Guadalupe Community Center.

Maribel, an alumna of the Learning Center program. Maribel and her sister both attended after-school tutoring there during their junior high years. After graduation from 8th grade and then High School, they both went on to attend universities.

Maribel was accepted to the Engineering Program at the University of Arizona. She recently shared: “I am forever grateful for having you as my tutor, Mrs. Cortez. You have taught me so much and helped instill ethical and academic skills at a very young age. You are the reason (today) why I stand in such a strong fundamental base

of knowledge. I hope to see you soon, and the next time I see you, I’ll be an Electrical Engineer!”

Guadalupe Center’s programs work in concert to improve educational opportunities and overall wellness for underserved communities. ❖

Christmas Came After all...

Suffering from the coronavirus pandemic has been exceptionally great in the Los Angeles neighborhood that surrounds the El Santo Niño Community Center, a very poor area of mostly undocumented immigrants working in the sweatshops of the garment district or as street vendors. The families have always been the poorest of the poor in Los Angeles, living with danger, fear, and trauma and raising their families in housing situations that most would find unsafe and unacceptable. These families receive no “government assistance,” no “stimulus relief.”

El Santo Niño Community Center has been a beacon of support for decades, providing no-cost food, resources, and safe after-school care for children and teens through its Adeste and MyClub programs.

This year, with the support of generous donors, Catholic Charities built a food pantry there that will nourish families for decades to come. In addition, the center’s regular supporters stepped up, once again, to ensure that COVID-19 did not stop Christmas from coming to these families. Over 55 families, teens and children were blessed with hot meals, groceries, and Christmas gifts. ❖



Volunteers dressed as Santa and two snowmen entertain a child who has received gifts at the El Santo Niño Community Center Christmas Party.

Employment Support Partnership Offers Extra Help in Hard Times

Diana arrived in the U.S. in 2018, seeking medical assistance for her young daughter who has a health condition that could not be treated in her home country. Diana needed help to find a job that would permit her to provide for herself and her daughter and allow some flexibility to tend to her daughter’s medical needs.

Diana was referred to Catholic Charities’ Employment Support Partnership (ESP) program for employment readiness and placement services. Through the ESP program, she was placed into a transitional subsidized job, which allows her to get local experience over a ten-month period.

When the pandemic hit, Diana temporarily lost her job but was able to be reinstated in October 2020. Diana told her ESP Employment Coach that, due to her job loss and the cost of her daughter’s medical treatment, she needed some extra help. Through the generosity of an anonymous donor, ESP staff were able to provide Diana with some extra financial assistance to help pay for food. Diana greatly appreciated the food assistance and the help provided to obtain local work experience.

To learn more about the employment services available through Employment Support Partnership, contact Jamie De Rose at jderose@ccharities.org or (213) 318-4723. ❖



An Employment Support Partnership staff, left, assisted Diana and her daughter.

Good Shepherd Shelter Families and Staff Find Connection Amidst Covid-19

The mothers and children who come to Good Shepherd Shelter do so in search of healing from their trauma. COVID-19 has only exacerbated their stress and anxiety, making their healing more difficult. Over the past year, the families faced quarantine in their individual units on four occasions, causing them extreme distress and feelings of isolation.

The staff also experienced bouts of distress as they worked to help and support the families while adhering to COVID-19 protocols. They were forced to balance providing services while distancing themselves from the mothers and children, thus creating obstacles toward healing.

As 2020 ended, the need to shake off the weariness of the past year became evident for both families and staff. The holidays highlighted the deep need for connection.

Fortunately, the shelter sits on three acres, which allowed for an outdoor, optional religious service just before Christmas. Both families and staff came together safely as a community. Those who attended expressed relief and gratitude for the opportunity to feel a sense of normalcy and connectedness in these most tumultuous times. ❖



CCLA Executive Director, Msgr. Gregory Cox, led a Christmas service at Good Shepherd Shelter.

CYO eSports Offer Students Competition in Time of Social Distancing

In March 2020, CYO was preparing to start its' Spring Season with Track & Field, Soccer and the Spring Golf Tourney. Things drastically changed on March 15 as the staff cancelled all events in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the initial shutdown of sports activities, James McGoldrick, Director, CYO-LA, searched for any activity that would allow the students to compete, interact with their peers and represent their schools. As no physical contact was permitted, existing sports offerings were not possible.

McGoldrick researched the eSports segment so that Catholic youth could remain engaged during a time of social distancing. In April, CYO announced the inaugural eSports Tournament for all elementary schools in Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

The eSports Spring Tourney was open to all students, grades 6-8 and included several sports-related games: Madden, NBA2K and FIFA. This was uncharted territory for CYO and the school



Students enjoy the eSports provided by CYO-LA.

administrators, most of whom were unfamiliar with video games or how they were played online. Nevertheless, the Tourney got underway with 77 players from 26 schools across all games.

The CYO eSports League was launched in September with Fortnite, Just Dance and NBA2K games. A broader offering brought in more girls and extended participation to 5th graders. The league has 1,400 students from 24 schools participating. Teams were placed in

Leagues and played a schedule of games into October. The top teams qualified for the playoffs and CYO Champions received medals and recognition on the CYO website.

Research shows that eSports athletes improve academically and socially through structured eSports and content-appropriate engagement with minimal adult guidance and oversight. CYO eSports was created out of necessity due to the pandemic and will remain an integral part of the program for years to come. ❖



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Catholic Charities' food pantries and food distribution sites provide bags of groceries and sack lunches to clients who are experiencing food and housing insecurities.



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